

However, there are daunting issues that face our agricultural sector: Fuel, water supply—especially in my home State of California; although right now, we are very grateful for the massive rain—market conditions, and the trade commitments being enforced, such as the deficit we have with China.

Agriculture is essential to the economic well-being of my district, northern California, and the West.

California farmers rely on an abundance of water and low fuel prices to grow the crops we eat.

The last several years have seen fields go fallow because California's broken water management system has not been able to deliver the water that was needed.

Indeed, if we don't have the water supply, these crops that America receives so much of from California would not be grown, they would need to be imported or not have them at all.

It is in America's best interest to pursue permitting reform and unleash our domestic energy potential.

We celebrate National Ag Week in order to keep Americans working, fed, and our farmers in the fields.

HAYFIELD BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a team of high school athletes from Virginia's Eighth Congressional District.

Two weeks ago, Hayfield Secondary School's boys basketball team defeated the Patriot Pioneers to win Virginia's Class 6 basketball title for the second consecutive season.

Their hard-fought win was a testament to their collective work and to the energetic, orange-out crowd that traveled down from Fairfax to cheer them on.

Hayfield Secondary students, teachers, and administrators are the best of our future. They are diverse, brilliant, and creative. It takes the whole Hayfield community to build the past two seasons where they had a 62-1 record in addition to back-to-back State championships.

Hayfield's win reflects their courage, discipline, and excellent sportsmanship.

Congratulations to Coach Carlos Poindexter, to everyone who made this success possible, and to the Hayfield players who brought this championship home.

Daryl Holloway, Jr., David King, Gregory Jones, Donovan Bass-Briscoe, Yohanse Awoke, Jahleel Jackson, Braelen Cage, Phenix Card, Andrew Ramirez-Novas, Owen Pottenburgh, Ryan Payne, Isiah Blue, Sean Burton, Parker Cage, Evan Sussin, Landon Judy, Jaylen Lemon, and Damarius Duncan.

Go Hawks!

AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as revealed by The Wall Street Journal on March 10:

The Pentagon's budget request seems large, but the figure is only a 3.2 percent increase, and with inflation at 6 percent it means a decline in buying power. Compare the growth to the double-digit increases for domestic accounts: 19 percent for the Environmental Protection Agency; 13.6 for both Education and Energy Departments; 11.5 percent for Health and Human Services.

Defense in 2022 was only 3 percent of GDP, down from 6 percent during the Cold War, even though America's challenges today are more numerous and acute.

Mr. Biden's largest failure is promising his budget will keep America safe instead of leveling with the public about the threats.

We should have a return of bipartisan support for defending American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the Global War on Terrorism continues moving from Afghanistan to the safe haven of America.

Thank you to the Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, for the courage to visit Kyiv, Ukraine, this week as the democracies unite against war criminal Putin.

RECOGNIZING THREE NICARAGUAN PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to place in the RECORD the names of three Nicaraguan political prisoners who were among those released and sent to the United States on February 23, 2023.

Luis Carlos Valle Tinoco, Karla Vanessa Escobar Maldonado, and Yader Antonio Polanco Cisneros joined the massive protests in Nicaragua in April 2018. All were denied due process, imprisoned in deplorable conditions, and refused access to medical care as their health declined just because they disagreed with their government.

They were recognized as prisoners of conscience by the Defending Freedoms Project of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and I was privileged to serve as their advocate.

Some Nicaraguan prisoners who arrived here are well-known leaders, but many are not. They have been stripped of their nationality, lost everything, and have a tough road ahead.

The Ortega government must be held accountable for its crimes.

SALUTE TO OUR FARMERS AND RANCHERS DURING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

(Mr. FLOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our farmers and ranchers as we celebrate National Ag Week.

In Nebraska, we grow the food, fuel, and fiber we need to feed the world.

We are known as the "Cornhusker State" and the "Beef State." We are number one for cattle on feed, number two for ethanol production, and number three for corn exports.

We are home to the four largest center-pivot irrigation manufacturers who help farmers efficiently apply water resources around the globe.

These are just a few of the things that make Nebraska the number one ag State and the number one in the Nation for ag receipts per capita.

We are also home to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Daugherty Water for Food Institute, which is leading the research we need to ensure that our world's natural resources support food security for years to come.

As we celebrate National Ag Week, I would extend a heartfelt thank you to the farmers and ranchers who work hard and sacrifice each day to feed the world.

PAKISTAN DAY

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my love and appreciation for the Pakistani-American community. I am proud to be introducing a resolution supporting a designation of March 23 as Pakistan Day.

The holiday of Pakistan Day, coming up tomorrow, marks the creation of the world's first Islamic Republic. Of course, Ramadan begins at sundown today, so I extend my best wishes for a happy Ramadan to Muslims around the world.

Pakistan Day is an opportunity for people of Pakistani heritage, wherever they live, to join with their neighbors in joy and celebration of their culture, their achievements, and their aspirations for the future. We are all enriched by this spirit.

I am deeply inspired by the contributions of Pakistani Americans who have given their brilliance to my district and our country as educators, innovators, public servants, organizers, and so much more.

Thank you to the American Pakistani Advocacy Group for your work which makes our democracy stronger.

I look forward to joining all those who will be observing Pakistan Day tomorrow, from Islamabad to Yonkers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.